

One Step at a Time

Newsletter of the Mountaineers Naturalist Group
November 2015

November, with its shortening days reminds us to look more often to the heavens to reflect, to notice the bud in the bloom and to continue, mindfully, to wonder at the myriad patterns in our natural world.

Photo Album for mid-autumn



Lion's mane mushroom, Twin Lakes near Lake Wenatchee and mushrooms on Cougar Mountain.

In the Garden

Walking in our species garden, there are still blooms.
Cooley's hedge nettle
pearly everlasting



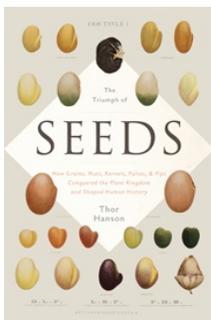
shrubby cinquefoil
Richardson's penstemon
alpine daisy



Tweedy's lewisia
stream violet
yarrow
kinnickinick
hairy manzanita
Oregon sunshine
also, some ferns are shining this month, especially licorice and deer fern

Activities

Mark your calendar for **Wednesday, Nov. 11**, the first of our Naturalists winter lectures.



Conservation biologist Thor Hanson will read from his well-received new book "The Triumph of Seeds," describing how seeds not only became dominant in the plant world, but shaped human history as well. Lecture is 7-9 p.m. in Goodman A.

The Kitsap naturalist group is hosting a mushrooming walk November 8th:

Day Hike - Kitsap Cabin & Forest Theater

Mushrooms!! - sharing of knowledge gathered at the Meany Mushroom Week-end, and a walk out to Big Tree - to see what we can identify along the way.

Registration will close on Nov 6 at 5:00 PM.

Contacts



[Sue Labrie](#)

Primary Leader

Qualified Youth Leader

- Sun, Nov 8, 2015
- Kitsap Naturalists Committee
- Activity Type: Exploring Nature
- Audience: Adults

- Difficulty: Easy
- Leader Rating: Easy
- **Mileage:** 1.5 mi
- Availability: 1 (12 capacity)

Signup availability limited (as seen above). Sign up on the Mountaineers website

Hike of the Month

Our hike of the month for November, the last Saturday of the month (November 28th). This month our plan is to go to Denny Creek and hike up Mineral Gulch, looking for interesting mineral

formations with garnet embedding. The area is a geotone (meaning interface between geological regions). We may also explore the waterfall area on Denny Creek. Sign up through the study group on our website (look for it under my Courses after you login). If weather or conditions do not permit we will offer an alternative location at Cougar Mountain.

Washington Native Plant Society talk:

Mark Egger, Pacific Paintbrushes: A Photographic Synopsis and Celebration of the *Castilleja* Species of the P.N.W.

Mark's program will begin with a brief introduction to the anatomy and terminology associated with the genus *Castilleja* (the Indian Paintbrushes). Mark will then summarize the numerous changes in the taxonomy of this genus and the other closely-related groups since the publication of Hitchcock and Cronquist's Flora of the Pacific Northwest. The program will feature selected images of all of the paintbrush species found in Washington, Oregon, and southern British Columbia, including several new *Castilleja* species described since the late 1990's. Information will be provided about the range and ecology of these species, as well as tips concerning their identification.

Mark Egger is a recently retired science teacher and a Research Associate at the Herbarium at the University of Washington-Burke Museum. Mark has devoted much of his free time over the last 32 years to studying the genus *Castilleja* throughout North America, Mexico, and Central and South America. In addition to being an authority on the genus, Mark is also a highly accomplished photographer. He is a long-standing member of the Central Puget Sound Chapter of the Washington Native Plant Society having joined in 1983.

**Thursday, December 3, 2015, 7:30pm,
UW Center for Urban Horticulture, 3501 NE 41st St, Seattle**

Seattle Audubon Society field trips:

The Seattle Audubon society has an active field trip program through the winter.

You can find out about them and how to register at the following location:

<http://www.seattleaudubon.org/sas/GetInvolved/GoBirding/FieldTrips/LatestFieldTrips.aspx>

A couple of examples are given below. Priority in signup is given to Audubon Society members.

Sunday, November 8, 2015 – Limit 7

Point No Point, Hansville area

Leader: Scott Ramos (206-229-2421 day of trip only)

6:15 AM, Greenlake (Ravenna) P&R

We will visit several [locations](#) in the Hansville area looking for sea ducks, alcids, grebes and loons as well as possible small gulls and jaegers. We will also do some forest walking where typical winter passerines should also appear. Bring lunch, snacks and fluids, plus money for the ferry and a possible stop for coffee. Dress in layers to stay warm and dry. Scopes helpful. Walking from the cars up to a mile on mostly level ground. Back by mid-evening. Carpool cost: \$20 each car shared equally by riders (plus cost of ferry).

Saturday, November 14, 2015 – Limit 10 in three cars

Port Townsend and Marrowstone Island

Leaders: Neil and Carleen Zimmerman (day of trip [phone number](#): 206-200-6700)

6:00 AM, Greenlake (Ravenna) P&R

A perfect trip for coffee drinkers: chilly weather and plenty of bathroom stops. Even a coffee stop at the Nordland store. Birding stops will include Mystery Bay, Fort Flagler, and Port Townsend. Black Turnstones, Long-tailed Ducks, Marbled and Ancient Murrelets are a possibility. We'll travel mostly by car and take short walks. Scopes a plus. Bring a lunch and money for the ferry, gas, and lattes. Dress for blustery weather. Return by late afternoon or early evening. Carpool cost: \$30 each car shared equally by riders (plus cost of ferry). Discover Pass needed by drivers.



[UW Botanic Gardens: The Birds of Winter](#)

Monday, November 9, 7 – 8:30pm

Location: [UW Botanic Gardens - Center for Urban Horticulture, Douglas Classroom \(3501 NE 41st St, Seattle, WA 98105\)](#)

While we cozy up to the fireplace and drink a hot toddy, the birds of winter are out in the rain, sleet and snow carrying on their normal lives. Winter can be a hard season for birds, but they are also well equipped to handle most challenges. Come listen while master birder and nature author Constance Sidles tells you the tales of how our birds survive in winter. Our swans should be back home by mid-November, with babies in tow. The raptors are coming down from their breeding grounds in the north, the sparrows are settling in, and hummingbirds are starting to hibernate each night. Lots more is happening, if we only take the time to stop and look at the nature that surrounds us.

Time permitting she will read an excerpt about winter birds from one of her books.

Cost: \$15

[Register Online](#) or by phone ([206-685-8033](#))

Salmon Stations

Carkeek Park

All ages

Free Time:

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

November and early December is the time to experience Pacific salmon in an urban stream. Coho and chum salmon run in Piper's

Creek in during this time. Drop-in stations with trained guides are set up on the weekends to facilitate observations of the salmon and to give out tips on how to help perpetuate these runs. No need to sign up. Just come to the lower meadow at Carkeek Park and look for the salmon stewards in the blue vests.

11/07/2015 Sat	11/22/2015 Sun
11/08/2015 Sun	11/28/2015 Sat
11/14/2015 Sat	11/29/2015 Sun
11/15/2015 Sun	12/05/2015 Sat
11/21/2015 Sat	12/06/2015 Sun

Odds and Ends

This from recent Intro class graduate Leah Miller, who was given (as a prize) an oak gall. This is the epilogue: "I figured out that these little buggers are actually the Cynipid Gall Wasp that can actually kill black oak trees. The picture below shows exactly what the ones coming out of the gall look like."



Cynipid Gall Wasp

<http://www.mvtimes.com/2013/10/23/small-wasps-bring-down-big-black-oaks-17742/>

So beware of naturalists bearing gifts!